

We are seeing results in communities across the country. In my state of Massachusetts, the Twin Cities Community Development Corporation serves the cities of Fitchburg and Leominster. Terri Murray, the Twin Cities CDC Executive Director, says that "top down" neighborhood revitalization does not succeed and the training is invaluable to building strong resident led organizations. The turnaround they are experiencing in declining neighborhoods like the Cleghorn section of Fitchburg is attributed to a combination of the dedication of neighborhood residents, the marshaling of increased municipal services, and the leveraging of private and public grants and loans including federal HOME funds. Becoming a member of NeighborWorks® and thus a beneficiary of Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation resources has served to strengthen the capacity of the Twin Cities Community Development Corporation, supporting its housing rehabilitation, home ownership, and small business/micro-enterprise development programs.

The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation enjoys bipartisan support in the Senate. Along with its partners, the NeighborWorks® network, and Neighborhood Housing Services of America, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation is to be commended for its fine work.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BERNIE WHITEBEAR, WASHINGTON STATE CITIZEN OF THE DECADE

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, on October 31, 1997 Washington state Governor Gary Locke declared the month of October "Bernie Whitebear Month" and proclaimed Bernie Whitebear as a "Citizen of the Decade". I would like to join the Governor, and the whole state of Washington in paying tribute to Bernie Whitebear for his outstanding contributions to the Seattle metropolitan community, the urban Native American community, the state of Washington, and in fact the entire Pacific Northwest.

For 30 years, Bernie Whitebear has been a voice and representative of the needs and concerns of the urban Indian community in Seattle and surrounding areas. His commitment to the preservation and edification of Native American culture within a diverse urban environment has never wavered. He established the Minority Executive Director's Coalition of King County, participates in the Northwest Asian American Theater's annual community Show-Off, and through his United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, acts as the Executive Director of the Daybreak Star Cultural and Education Center in Discovery Park, a center he established.

In recent years, Bernie has been tireless in his pursuit of his next vision: the People's Lodge. The People's Lodge is the next phase of development for the United Indians of All Tribes Foun-

dation (United Indians) Indian Cultural Center (ICC) which includes the Daybreak Star Center. The United Indians is a well-established organization thanks to Bernie with over 20 years of service in Western Washington. The ICC mission, and Bernie's focus in life, is to improve the social, economic, and cultural well-being of Native Americans living in the metropolitan Seattle area. Bernie and United Indians run a variety of educational, community service, and cultural arts programs serving 4,000 clients and attracting 30,000 visitors a year. The People's Lodge will improve and expand United Indian's desire to preserve and enhance Indian heritage and educate people about Indian cultural diversity. The People's Lodge will include a permanent Hall of Ancestors exhibition, a multiple-use Potlatch House, and an exhibition gallery, the John Kauffman, Jr. Theater, a resource center, and the Sacred Circle of the American Indian Art.

The programs and activities envisioned by Bernie in the People's Lodge will be a great benefit to the greater Seattle community and the citizen's of Western Washington. The People's Lodge will create new jobs, serve as a new venue for sales and performances by artists of all kinds, and help preserve and advance the cultural heritage of Native Americans in this region. It has been my pleasure to work with Bernie in seeking federal support of this project. Bernie has been working diligently to secure an Economic Development Administration grant for the People's Lodge. I urge the EDA to give the grant proposal of United Indians for the People's Lodge their utmost consideration.

Bernie Whitebear is a true leader for Native Americans in Seattle and a genuine asset to our community in the greater Seattle area. I personally appreciate his efforts. It is always a pleasure to see Bernie's warm face and bright smile come into my office. Bernie truly is a Citizen of the Decade.●

#### HONORING NEW MEXICO MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, Veteran's Day is an appropriate occasion to honor those who have served our Nation so nobly. I'd like to take this occasion to offer special recognition to New Mexico's most distinguished veterans, our living Medal of Honor winners. Col. Robert Scott, who celebrates his 84th birthday this month, is a longtime resident of Santa Fe, NM, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic deeds during World War II. Cpl. Hiroshi Miyamura, from Gallup, NM, was honored for his bravery as an infantryman during the Korean war. Second Lt. Raymond Murphy, a resident of Albuquerque, served heroically with the U.S. Marine Corps during that conflict. Sgt. Louis Richard Rocco, also from Albuquerque, celebrating his 59th birthday this

month, received the Medal for his courageous deeds as a medic during the Vietnam war. New Mexico and the Nation are proud of these fine men and deeply grateful for their contributions to the freedom enjoyed by all Americans.

Since the birth of our Nation in 1776, 40 million American men and women have bravely sacrificed and served in defense of the freedoms that we enjoy, perhaps even sometimes take for granted. But our freedom isn't free, it was bought and paid for with the sacrifices of more than 1 million of those heroic servicemen and women who gave their lives for God and country. It was our first President who cautioned a young nation that, "If we desire peace, it must be known that we are at all times prepared for war."

Time and again in our 220-year history, our Nation's sons and daughters have been called upon to demonstrate that preparedness. Perhaps in no other war, however, was their resolve more tested than when our Nation struggled within itself during the Civil War. Early in that conflict, Iowa Senator James W. Grimes realized that soldiers needed not only leadership, they needed role models—heroes to look up to and emulate. To accomplish this, he introduced to this body, legislation authorizing a Medal of Honor for sailors and marines who distinguished themselves by their gallantry in action, in order to "promote the efficiency of the navy." Six months after President Lincoln authorized the Navy's Medal of Honor on December 21, 1861, he signed similar legislation introduced by Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson to establish a Medal of Honor for members of the U.S. Army.

Since it was established by the Senate and authorized by President Lincoln 136 years ago, the Medal of Honor has been awarded to only 3,408 veterans of military service. The "roll call" of heroes includes an 11-year-old Civil War naval cabin boy, an escaped slave, the sons of two Presidents, conscientious objectors, privates and generals, chaplains and medics, and members of the U.S. Senate. These heroes have come from every State in the Union, from all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds, and from all social and economic strata. Three other Medal of Honor winners hail from New Mexico—about whom we are equally proud; Richard Rocco, Raymond Murphy, and Hiroshi Miyamura. Each of these men, and all winners of this coveted award have one thing in common, an action of such remarkable heroism "above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of their own life", that their comrades in arms have called them "heroes."

World War I gave us 119 Medal of Honor heroes, men like Eddie Rickenbacker and Sgt. Alvin York. But when the armistice was signed concluding the "war to end all wars" at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, all America prayed that there would be no need to extend the honor of Medal of Honor recipient to future

generations, a distinction that could be achieved only as a result of U.S. involvement in a war.

Sadly, this would not be the case. Since that first "Veterans Day", subsequent tyranny and human rights violations around the world have continued to test the commitment of our Nation's men and women in uniform. In the horror and devastation of the battles to defend freedom and human dignity since World War I, more than 30 million Americans have risked everything. All who served were heroes in their own right, and to each of them we owe our thanks, our thoughts and our prayers this Veterans Day. Of this multitude of patriots, only 811 received the Medal of Honor. So incredible were their acts of courage that only 316 of them survived to wear this highest honor.

It is often said that the youth of our Nation today need real heroes, men and women of patriotism and integrity, examples of sacrifice and service; that they can look up to and emulate. We who are of generations past can lament the loss of great Americans such as Sgt. York, Jimmie Doolittle, Audie Murphy, and other heroes of our childhood. But I am happy to report that today there are still many heroes and heroines in our land, men and women who embody the principles and character that have created and preserved the United States. Among those role models are the millions of veterans that we honor today, and among those veterans of military service are 168 surviving Medal of Honor heroes. Today, as we honor all our Nation's veterans, I would like to pay special homage to our New Mexican Medal of Honor winners.

On November 30, 1913, Robert Sheldon Scott was born here in the Nation's capital. His family later moved to California where Bob Scott attended school before moving again to my own State of New Mexico. Bob Scott answered his Nation's call to duty to serve during World War II.

On June 30, 1943, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Adm. William Halsey launched "Operation Cartwheel", a bold two-pronged offensive to gain control of Rabul in the Pacific. On the day, Admiral Halsey landed the 43rd Infantry Division on the New Georgia in the Solomon Islands for the purpose of capturing the Japanese-held Munda airstrip. Underestimating the jungles of the island and the tenacity of its Japanese defenders, Halsey expected the campaign to last only 2 weeks. By mid-July the Admiral was forced to land two more divisions on the island, and the attack on the airstrip resumed with new fervor on July 25. More than 1,000 Americans would give up their lives in the effort.

By July 27, the 43d Infantry's 172d Regiment bogged down in front of a salient facing the Munda airstrip. Battle-weary and demoralized from 27 days of bitter fighting, the well-entrenched enemy seemed to have again halted the

advance. Two days later, a squad from the 172d's 1st Battalion again assaulted the hill. Young Army Lt. Robert Scott led his men halfway up the hill to a position within 75 yards of the enemy, when the Japanese counterattack stopped them. Enemy soldiers rose from their fortifications firing their rifles and throwing grenades. Their fierce attack threw the exhausted Americans off the hill. Except for Lieutenant Scott.

Ducking behind the blasted remains of a tree stump, the brave lieutenant had an unobstructed view of the enemy bunkers. Despite being twice wounded and once having his rifle shot from his hand, for the next half hour, Lieutenant Scott stood alone on the hill to repulse the enemy. Throwing some 30 grenades, his one-man stand ended the enemy assault and caused them to withdraw. His Medal of Honor citation concludes with the notation that "our troops, inspired to renewed effort by Lieutenant Scott's intrepid stand and incomparable courage, swept across the plateau to capture the hill, and from this strategic position, four days later, captured Munda airstrip."

Of his award, Mr. Scott recently wrote, "I was awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II for deeds one day as a Second Lieutenant infantry platoon leader, deeds that I initiated at least in part from the conviction that I ought to have enough guts to do what I was authorized to order a sergeant or private soldier to try to do."

Today, Bob Scott still lives in the town of his youth, Santa Fe, NM. He is one of four of my State's living Medal of Honor heroes. The ninth oldest of our Nation's living Medal of Honor recipients, on the 30th day of this month, he will celebrate his 84th birthday. Our Governor, the Honorable Gary Johnson, has declared that day to be "Colonel Robert Scott Day" throughout our State.

Other Medal of Honor recipients from New Mexico contributed similar deeds of valor. Corporal Miyamura of Gallup was with Company H holding a defensive position near Taejon-ni, Korea in April 1951. When the enemy began to overrun his position, Corporal Miyamura left his sheltered position and engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat, then returned to his position to tend to the wounded. Under attack again, Corporal Miyamura manned two machine-guns to provide covering fire while his squad withdrew. He killed more than 50 enemy soldiers before his ammunition was depleted and he was severely wounded.

Second Lt. Raymond Murphy served as a platoon commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division in action against the enemy west of Panmunjom, Korea. Wounded by artillery fire, Lieutenant Murphy refused medical aid while leading his men up a well-defended hill through a withering barrage of enemy fire. Murphy rescued many of his fallen comrades and returned each time to lead

the assault and provide cover for his troops. While all the wounded evacuated and the assaulting units began to disengage, he remained behind with a carbine to cover the movement of friendly forces off the hill. After reaching the base of the hill, he organized a search party and again ascended the slope for a final check on missing Marines, locating and carrying the bodies of a machine-gun crew down the hill. Wounded a second time, he again refused medical assistance until he was certain that all of his men had been safely evacuated.

Sgt. Louis Richard Rocco of Albuquerque served in Vietnam as a medic northeast of Katum. While evacuating wounded comrades, Sergeant Rocco directed fire against the enemy to enable a helicopter to land and assist in the operation. In the battle, the helicopter was disabled by enemy fire and crashed. Sergeant Rocco continued to direct covering fire while personally extracting survivors from the helicopter and carrying them to safety through dense foliage and enemy fire.

It is said, "Poor is the nation that has no heroes or heroines, but beggard is the nation that has and forgets them." On this day, our Nation has set aside to remember our veterans, as I stand before the same body that established the Medal of Honor, I offer this special salute to Col. Robert S. Scott, Cpl. Hiroshi H. Miyamura, 2d Lt. Raymond G. Murphy, and Sgt. Louis Richard Rocco—great citizens of the State of New Mexico and the Nation.●

#### ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, on Wednesday, November 5, the Asian Elephant Conservation Act passed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee with unanimous support. I am hopeful that this important bill, introduced by Senator JEFFORDS, will ensure that the children of the world will not miss out on these extraordinary mammals.

The Asian Elephant Conservation Act is constructed along the lines of the successful African Elephant Conservation Act. I have been heartened to learn that the African Elephant Act is producing positive results. I am hopeful that the Asian Elephant Conservation Act will likewise support research, conservation, anti-poaching education, and protection of the animals. I feel strongly, however, that no funds allocated by these Acts are spent to promote efforts to resume the ivory trade or to encourage trophy hunting.

According to a 1996 nationwide poll, 84 percent of Americans support efforts to protect elephants, yet I have learned that some of the funds from the African Elephant Conservation Act have gone toward the promotion of elephant trophy hunting. There is ongoing debate about the success and appropriateness of US taxpayer dollars being used to support such activities, and I look